

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Andrew West, Member.

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 11/15/05 meeting were read. Mr. West made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. Kellner read the draft of a letter to send to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking for their consideration in working with the town to pursue a swimming beach at Tully Lake.
 - b) The Board is in receipt of a letter of concern from James Kelley regarding the lack of shoulders on a portion of Route 68 from Royalston to South Royalston.
 - c) Correspondence was received from Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk, stating that she'll be out of town during the week of 12/26/05.
 - d) Mr. Kellner reported that the Veteran's District was approved by the state. Interviews for the agent's position will be held on 1/14/06.
4. Department Head Reports:
 - a) DPW –
 - 1) Keith Newton reported that the grader is back in Athol for the second phase of the scheduled repairs. The loader is currently down due to a problem with the electrical sending unit.
 - 2) Mr. Newton spoke about Mr. Kelley's concern about the narrow shoulder on Route 68. He has done research previously, and there is not much that can be done without reconstructing the entire roadway, which would be very costly. The area in question is a terraced roadway with a solid base, but not enough room for modern vehicles. He would have do ledge-cutting work on the other side of the road instead, which would cost approximately \$100,000. Mr. West will reply to Mr. Kelley's correspondence by summarizing what was discussed at this meeting.
 - b) Wayne Newton – Dispatch services & site for telecommunications tower: Mr. Bundschuh stated that he has been unable to get in contact with Mr. Newton. Mr. Kellner will pursue the concept of a telecommunications tower on town property to see if any interest can be generated.
 - c) Police Department:
 - 1) Chief Deveneau reported that all checks have been received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the extra patrols done by the town during the summer. Discussion was held regarding how to get the money put back into the police department budget to replenish the money spent for this special contract.

- 2) The bulletproof vests currently being utilized need to be replaced as soon as possible. Approximate cost is \$650.00 each; five are needed. Mr. West offered his support for a special article at a future town meeting to reimburse the police department's budget if need be. The state will reimburse the town eventually.
- 3) Chief Deveneau would like to move on at least two properties with unregistered vehicles and trailers as the owners are not cooperating.

d) Building Department:

- 1) Mr. Kellner stated that he spoke with Geoff Newton recently regarding properties located at 1 School Street and King Street. Mr. Newton said that 1 School Street could be determined a "public nuisance" under the law, which would allow the town to demolish it. Mr. Bundschuh said that the Treasurer is currently working on the tax title process for the School Street property, so we should check on this before we go forward. Mr. Newton will provide the Board with copies of the public nuisance law. The DPW will work on cleaning up the King Street property in the future.
- 2) Mr. Newton reported that he and Phil Leger took a resident to court for violations of town bylaws. Conditions for compliance and dates for completion were ordered by the judge.
- 3) Mr. Newton spoke about Chapter 304, which allows for citations to be issued by the fire and building departments for certain code violations. Under this new regulation, towns would appoint a municipal hearings officer to deal with appeals or issues relating to the citations. He has been talking with representatives from other towns about the possibility of working together on this. The municipal hearings officer could not be a member of the fire or building department. He will make a copy of the regulation for the Board's review.

5. Old Business:

- a) Gary Winitzer reported that the Attorney General has approved the bylaw changes on non-criminal violations. The Town Clerk is currently working on the process of publishing the changes and updating the bylaw book.
- b) The process of reviewing the engineering firms who have submitted information for the Route 32 process is continuing. The consensus of the review committee was to request that the firms utilize the past findings that were done with less complex measures. The committee is now waiting for the firms to get this information together. Keith Newton stated that if we can get them to use the old test data, our cost would be reduced significantly.

6. New Business:

- a) Class II Dealers Licenses: Chief Deveneau will review the applications for these licenses and report back at the next meeting.
- b) 8:30 p.m. – Larry Siegel, Tree Warden – Cut trees on Common: Mr. Siegel reported that Dwight Stowell has cut down and trimmed several town trees on the common. He had met with Mr. Stowell previously to review the rules for cutting the trees, i.e., posting the trees, holding a hearing, etc. Mr. Stowell proceeded to cut and trim the trees without going through the process as outlined in the bylaws. Discussion was held on how to handle the situation. Mr. Siegel referred to the State Handbook for Tree Wardens, which lists a fine of \$500 for each instance. The Board and Mr. Siegel reviewed a map of the common. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to ask Dwight Stowell to contribute \$4,500 to

the Historic District Commission within 30 days in lieu of a fine for improper cutting of trees to fund the planting of trees on the common. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Bundschuh will speak to Mr. Stowell about moving the wood left on town property.

- c) The warrant for the Special State Election was signed as requested by the Town Clerk.
 - d) Mr. Kellner made a motion to appoint Louise Gelinas as an Election Worker. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mrs. Gelinas was inadvertently left off the list when annual appointments were made.
7. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
8. Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.